

REMARKS:

- 1) The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge and approve the following formal matters in the next official communication:
 - a) the formal drawings filed with this application on August 13, 2001;
 - b) the foreign priority claim and receipt of the Priority Document; and
 - c) the Information Disclosure Statement filed on December 17, 2002.
- 2) The claims have been amended as follows.

Claims 3 to 6 have been amended to depend from claim 1.

Claims 7 to 11 have been canceled.

New claims 13 to 17 have been added, depending from claim 12, and respectively based on the subject matter of prior claims 7 to 11. In other words, new claims 13 to 17 now represent the subject matter of prior claims 7 to 11 depending from claim 12.

Claim 12 has been amended for streamlining and for conformance with the new dependent claims 13 to 17.

The claim amendments and the new claims do not introduce any new matter. Entry and consideration thereof are respectfully requested.
- 3) In response to the new Restriction Requirement, applicants hereby elect the Group I claims 1, 2 and 12 for examination.

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- 4) In the present amendment, the prior non-elected claims 3 to 11 have been revised so that they depend from the elected claims and thus also fall within the elected Group, as follows. Claims 3 to 6 have been amended to depend from elected claim 1. Claims 7 to 11 have been canceled, while corresponding new claims 13 to 17 depend from elected claim 12. Thus, **in view of the present amendment, rejoinder and consideration of all claims is respectfully requested.** After the present amendment, all remaining claims 1 to 6 and 12 to 17 should be examined with the elected invention.
- 5) Favorable consideration and allowance of the application, including all present claims 1 to 6 and 12 to 17, are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Akiyuki HARADA et al.
Applicant

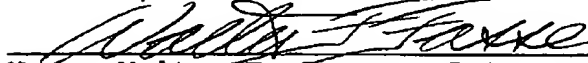
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CERTIFICATE OF FAX TRANSMISSION:

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 4/26/04
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